

Appendix B

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accessory Building: Any building used as an accessory to residential, commercial, recreational, industrial, or educational purposes as defined in the latest adopted edition of the California Building Code, Group U, Division I, Occupancy that requires a building permit.

Agriculture: Land used for agricultural purposes as defined in a local jurisdiction's zoning ordinance.

Building: Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy that is defined in the California Building Code, 1994 Amendments, Chapter 2.

CDF: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act.

Classic Interface: A well-defined boundary. In California this interface type exists at the perimeter of well-developed urban areas. The traditional interface, for example, implies some kind of boundary of defined perimeter that can be defended along some kind of front. And once the front is defended, the fire becomes clearly structural in character, or clearly wildland.

Clearance: Space cleared of vegetation as required by law, regulation, easement, etc., for the purpose of preventing fires.

Code Enforcement: Application of specific codes based on statutory mandated conducted through inspection.

Contract Counties: In California, the six counties that provide fire-prevention services in state responsibility areas under contract with the state. These counties are Marin, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange.

Damage Assessment (Fire Suppression): Amount of economic loss.

Damage Evaluation (Fire Prevention Engineering): The impact and effect of statutes and regulations on structures and other improvements relating to engineering, education, and enforcement.

Dead-End Road: A road that has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress, including cul-de-sacs and looped roads.

Defensible Space: An area either natural or manmade where material capable of causing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared, reduced or changed in order to act as barrier between the advancing wildfire and the loss to life, property or resources. This concept is vital for firefighter safety and provides the single significant element of protection of individual property owners.

Defensible Space: The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires.

The perimeter as used in this regulation is the area encompassing the parcel or parcels proposed for construction and/or development, excluding the physical structure itself. The establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures characterize the area.

Defensible Space: Adequate space (free from flammable vegetation) between structures and flammable vegetation, which allows firefighters a safe working area within which to attack an oncoming wildfire.

Development: The uses to which the land, which is the subject of a map, shall be put, the buildings to be constructed on it, and all alterations of the land and construction incident thereto (GC 66418.1).

Director: Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or his/her designee.

Driveway: A vehicular access that serves no more than two buildings, with no more than three dwelling units on a single parcel, and any number of accessory buildings.

Duff: Partially decayed leaves, needles, grass or other organic material accumulated on the ground.

Dwelling Unit: Any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and/or sanitation for not more than one family.

Easement: A right afforded a person to make limited use of another's real property.

Exception: An alternative to the specified standard requested by the applicant that may be necessary due to health, safety, environmental conditions, physical site limitations or other limiting conditions such as recorded historical sites, that provides mitigation of the problem.

Exempt: Does not require clearance of flammable vegetation.

Firebreak: Any natural or constructed barrier utilized to segregate, stop and control the spread of fire or to provide a control line from which to work.

Fire Hazard: Dangerous accumulation of flammable fuels in wildland areas usually referring to vegetation.

Fire Hazard: The flammable materials that may be ignited by the various fire risks or cause fires to increase in intensity or rate of spread.

Fire Hazard Assessment: A tactical, site specific measurement of the factors which affect fire behavior, fire suppression capability and effectiveness, structure survivability in a wildfire situation, firefighter and resident safety, etc. (Harrell).

Fire Hazard Classification: A broad, strategic analysis which, while using many of the assessment parameters, focuses more on a matrix of fuels, slope and weather (The Fire Environment), which pose a conflagration potential influenced by fuelbed continuity, access, open space, proximity to other hazardous areas, etc. "Fire Hazard Classification" is an integral part of the State Fire Plan (Harrell).

Fire Hazard Mitigation: Various methods by which existing fire hazards can be reduced in a certain area, such as fuel breaks, non-combustible roofing, chimney screens, etc.

Fire Hazard Zoning: A planning and regulatory activity (typically conducted by a local agency such as a city or county) which provides criteria for what kinds, how many and under what conditions development or other activities should be regulated in areas of various hazard classification (Harrell).

Fire Risk: A source of ignition of fire hazards.

Fire Season: That portion of the year, generally 6 to 8 months in the summer and fall in California, declared such by the responsible public agency fire administrator. Declaration is based on fuel and weather conditions conducive to the ignition and spread of wildland fires.

Flammable: Combustible and capable of being easily set on fire or kindled.

Fire: The rapid oxidation of a fuel resulting in the release of heat, light and other byproducts.

Fire Information: The distribution of information to the media on ongoing fires.

Fire Plan: The business process used to define values at risk, focus efforts to mitigate potential losses; a framework for minimizing losses.

Fire Prevention: The practices used to keep the combination of heat, fuel and oxidizer from continuing to threaten life or property.

Fire Prevention Education: The development and distribution of policy, practices and publication procedures to targeted user groups in order for them to take appropriate action through behavior modification.

Fire Prevention Enforcement: The actions taken by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to assure that acts, omissions or specific environment requirements set forth in statutes or regulations are adhered to by those being held responsible.

Fire (Prevention) Engineering: The discipline of using the principles of fire behavior and its effects on life or materials to create appropriate controls on the use of fire, or to resist its ignition and spread.

Fire Prevention Planning: Codes and Standards; Data Collection; Grants; Education; Land Use Planning; and Licensing, Listing, and Certification.

Fire Prevention Planning: Ignition management to reduce large loss and damage.

Fire Prevention Program: The use of fire engineering, education and enforcement principles to support the practices to reduce the probability of consequence from unwanted fires.

Fire Prevention Research: Examination of specific topics and data that have not been evaluated thoroughly, in order to prescribe future engineering, education or enforcement needs.

Fire Protection: The policies, practices and procedures used to limit fire losses in specific targeted areas: use of all alternatives to minimize losses.

Fire Protection Planning: Development of the infrastructure to respond effectively once a fire occurs.

Fire Safe: Environment created in and around a building to resist the intrusion of fire.

Fire Safe Engineering: The use of fire prevention engineering practices to reduce fuels, create access and reduce potential of ignition.

Fuelbreak: Strip from which forest fuels and woody vegetation have been reduced by thinning, pruning or removal well ahead of time to slow down or stop a wildfire or to provide a control line from which to work.

Fuel Modification Area: An area where the volume of flammable vegetation has been reduced, providing reduced fire intensity and duration.

Greenbelts: A facility or land use designed for a use other than fire protection, which will slow or resist the spread of a wildfire. Includes parking lots, irrigated or landscaped areas, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, and maintained vineyards, orchards or annual crops that do not cure in the field.

Hammerhead/T: A roadway that provides a “T” shaped, three-point turnaround space for emergency equipment, being no narrower than the road that serves it.

Hazard: The resistance to control once a wildfire starts – fuels, topographic features, and weather conditions – adversely affecting suppression efforts are hazard factors.

Ignition Management: Includes fire prevention program activities that are aimed at preventing the ignition of wildland fires and/or reducing damage from fires. Components include law enforcement, public education, engineering, fuels modification, and fire-safe planning.

Ignition Management Analysis and Planning Process: A formal process of analyzing and prioritizing ignitions which identifies those ignitions that are most likely to become large and/or damaging fires.

Initial Attack: The wildfire control efforts taken by resources that are first to arrive at a wildfire.

Interface, or Wildland Interface: The geographical meeting point of two diverse systems, wildland and structures. At this interface, structures and vegetation are sufficiently close that a wildland fire could spread to structures or a structure fire ignites vegetation.

Intermix/Interface: The scattering or intermixing of structures with natural vegetation. In this type of interface, there are no clearly defined boundaries.

Intermix, or Wildland Intermix: Interspersing of developed land with wildland, where there are no easily discernible boundaries between the two systems. An example would be what real estate brochures describe as “ranchettes” or “weekend farmer” homes. Poses more problems in wildland fire management than *interface*.

I-Zone: Casual reference to wildland interface and/or intermix.

Law Enforcement: Action taken to hold accountable those who do not comply with codes/laws (civil/criminal actions).

Local Jurisdiction: Any county, city/county agency or department, or any locally authorized district that issues or approves building permits, use permits, tentative maps or tentative parcel maps, or has authority to regulate development and construction activity.

National Fire Danger Rating System: A scientifically developed system for estimating degree of fire hazard, risk and burning intensity expressed numerically for broad areas.

Non-Exempt: Requires clearance of flammable vegetation.

Occluded Wildland: Where isolated islands of wildlands are surrounded by primarily urban development. The urban and wildland areas are generally clearly separated, meeting at a well-defined boundary or interface. These occluded wildlands may be many miles from continuous stretches of wildland.

Occupancy: The purpose of which a building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.

Post-Fire Management: Damage Evaluation, Damage Assessment and Recovery.

Pre Fire: Actions taken prior to the ignition of a fire to affect the fire's behavior or impact.

PreFire Management: The comprehensive application of safety, fire prevention, and fire hazard reduction techniques aimed to prevent the ignition of wildland fires, prevent the damage fires can cause, reduce the costs of suppressing the fires and improving forest health.

PreFire Planning: Efforts to identify specifics where actions should be taken to have the most effect on potential fires.

Prescribed Burning: Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels, in either their natural or modified state, under conditions of weather, fuel moisture, soil moisture, etc., as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce results to meet planned objectives of land management.

Pre-suppression: Activities undertaken in advance of fire occurrence to help ensure more efficient fire suppression. It includes over-all planning, recruitment and training of fire personnel, procurement and maintenance of fire fighting equipment and supplies, and creating maintaining, and improving a system of fuel-breaks, roads, water sources, and control lines.

Prevention Prescription: A list of activities developed to solve an identified problem or need. A prescription will include: 1) what will be done, 2) when it will be done, 3) where it will be done, 4) who will do it, and 5) the estimated cost. Prescriptions will normally be associated only with targeted fire prevention activities.

Public Education: The distribution of information to influence the behavior of the general public.

Public Information: Distribution of information regarding ongoing department activities and proclamation, advisories and education messages.

Quad 81st Grid: This is a 7-1/2 minute quadrangles overlay grid system to facilitate the Fire Environmental Assessment process. 9 columns and 9 rows divide the 7-1/2 minute quadrangles. The resultant cells are approximately 450 acres in size. Grid cell size gives adequate level of resolution for setting unit and statewide priorities.

Ranger Unit: Administrative unit of the CDF.

Red Flag Fire Alert: A warning system for notification of the public and industry that extreme fire conditions are eminent or in effect.

Right-of- Way: The strip of land of varying width on which the tracks and other operating installations are placed and over which the operating company has some degree of control, by either deed, easement or special use permit.

Right-of- Way: The right to pass over property owned by another party. The path or thoroughfare on which such passage is made.

Risk: The likelihood of a wildfire ignition. This is normally a result of the activities of people.

Risk-Fire: Potential for ignition of fuels or an ignition agent.

Roadway: Any surface designed, improved, or ordinarily used for vehicle travel.

Roadway Structures: Bridges, culverts, and other appurtenant structures that supplement the roadway bed or shoulders.

Rural-Wildland Intermix: Where rural development and the wildland meet and intermix with no clearly defined separation or interface. The foothill and mountain developments in central and northern California are good examples. This may include small communities or rural sprawl around a community.

Same Practical Effect: An exception or alternative with the capability of applying accepted wildland fire suppression strategies and tactics, and provisions for firefighter safety, including: a) access for emergency wildland fire equipment; b) safe civilian evacuation; c) signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response; d) available and accessible water to effectively attack wildfire or defend a structure from wildfire; and e) fuel modification sufficient for civilian and firefighter safety.

Spark Arrester: A device that traps or pulverized exhaust carbon particles to a size below 0.023 inch in diameter, as they are expelled from an exhaust system. A spark arrester system includes the following components: Internal, combustion engine, internal parts, external parts (bumper spikes, wrap-around handle bar, chain brakes, covers, muffler, and spark arrester).

Stakeholder: Any person, agency or organization with a particular interest – a stake – in fire safety and protection of assets from wildland fires.

State Board of Forestry (SBF): A nine-member board appointed by the Governor, which is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the State, for determining the guidance policies of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and for representing the State's interest in federal land in California.

State Responsibility Area (SRA): Areas of the State in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the State Board of Forestry pursuant to PRC 4125, to be primarily the responsibility of the State (PRC 4102).

Structure: That which is built or constructed, an edifice or building of any kind, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner.

Turnaround: A roadway, unobstructed by parking, which allows for a safe opposite change of direction for emergency equipment. Design of such area may be a hammerhead/T or terminus bulb.

Turnouts: A widening in a roadway to allow vehicles to pass.

Uncontrolled Fire: Any fire that threatens to destroy life, property or natural resources, and either is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or is burning with such intensity that it cannot be readily extinguished with ordinary tools commonly available.

Understory: Small trees (seedlings, saplings, pole-sized) growing under a canopy of large, more or less mature trees.

Urban-Wildland Interface: Refers to the geographical point where flammable vegetation meets man-made structures.

Value: The values at risk - what can be destroyed by a wildland fire. Value includes market (quantifiable) values and non-market values such as rare and endangered species, visual aspects, etc. Timber resource losses and potential improvement losses should be considered as market values.

Vertical Clearance: The minimum specified height of a bridge or overhead projection above the roadway.

Wildfire: As defined in Public Resources Code Sections 4103 and 4104.

Wildland: Uncultivated land, other than fallow, neglected or maintained for such purposes as wood or range-forage production, wildlife, recreation, protective watershed cover or wilderness.

Wildland Fire: Any fire occurring on undeveloped land.